

O. Rainer on his outstanding contributions to the Nashville District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Nation.

IN HONOR OF POLICE CAPTAIN JOSEPH D. SILVA AND HIS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF MILPITAS, CA.

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and congratulate Captain Joseph D. Silva, a dedicated member of the Milpitas Police Department. After thirty-five years of outstanding service, Captain Silva will be retiring from the force.

Joseph Silva joined the Milpitas Police Department on February 4, 1963. Since then he has served in several capacities, making many lasting contributions to the force and community along the way. Joseph was promoted to Sergeant in 1966, Lieutenant in 1973, and again to Captain shortly thereafter.

Captain Silva played a major role in guiding the evolution of the department as Milpitas grew from a small farming town to a large urban community. He started the department's first inventory procedures for equipment and the first suspect identification system.

For eight years Captain Silva was a K-9 officer, wearing out five dogs in that time. He has served as a supervisor in patrol, traffic, and investigations, and was the first of many Milpitas Police Supervisors to attend the FBI Academy.

Captain Silva was pivotal in planning and establishing the modern police administration building and the new police car design. They will stand as tributes to his leadership and dedication.

Over his many years of service, Joseph Silva has been commended numerous times by the citizens of Milpitas and the law enforcement community. On March 1, 1998 the city will thank him again upon his retirement. I would like to join them by expressing my appreciation for his efforts. His leadership and commitment are an example and an inspiration for all of us. I wish him much happiness and success in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 1997 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1997 Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce Valor Award winners. The Valor Awards honor public service officers who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery and ingenuity in the performance of duty. There are five categories: The gold Medal, the Silver Medal, the Bronze Medal, the Certificate of Valor, and the Lifesaving Award.

The Silver Medal Award Winners are Lieutenant Steve Barr, Technician I Richard Scott, and Technician I Channing Furr.

Lieutenant Barr, Technician I Scott, and Technician I Furr showed outstanding judgement and initiative after a car crashed into the rear of a restaurant. Beneath the car, a natural gas line severed by the crash created an explosion hazard, with the driver, suffering from severe traumatic injuries, trapped inside. Acting quickly and effectively, the team members were able to mitigate the gas leak and attend to the patient, by demonstrating outstanding initiative and judgement.

The Bronze Medal Award Winners are Officer Bryan E. Sutton and Officer J.S. Dillon.

Officer Sutton responded to a complainant whose husband was threatening suicide. The husband appeared before the wife and Officer Sutton brandishing a knife. Officer Sutton placed the wife out of harm's way and calmly talked the husband into surrendering, thereby bringing a potentially volatile situation to a safe conclusion.

Officer Dillon responded to a burglary in progress where shots had been fired. He arrived to find that suspect had taken an occupant hostage at gunpoint. Officer Dillon negotiated with the hostage, successfully diffusing a potentially life-threatening situation with no injuries or loss of life.

The Certificate of Valor Award Winners are HM3 Robert R. Robinson II and Police Administrative Specialist Donna Lisa Belcher.

Petty Officer Robinson, while on vacation, heard about a severe accident on his CB radio. He proceeded to the scene where he located and assisted victims until medical help could arrive. Petty Officer Robinson's expertise, dedication to duty, and professionalism were a tremendous asset to the arriving rescue personnel.

Police Administrative Specialist Belcher assisted in the apprehension of a suspect who had been wanted for murder for several months. Due to her persistence and ingenuity, she was able to locate an address for an out-of-state relative where the suspect was found and arrested.

The Lifesaving Award Winner is Telecommunicator Alma Boteler.

Telecommunicator Boteler received an emergency 9-1-1 call from a man whose pregnant wife of six months was giving birth to her baby in a toilet. Because of Telecommunicator Boteler's ability to effectively communicate life-saving procedures under difficult circumstances, the husband was able to remove the baby from the toilet and give it mouth to mouth resuscitation, saving the baby's life.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating these fine heroes, who every day, unselfishly devote themselves to aiding those in need. I have the highest appreciation for their untiring dedication and outstanding service.

TRANE COMPANY'S APPLIED
GLOBAL SYSTEMS GROUP
E.P.A.'S 1998 ENERGY STAR
BUILDINGS ALLY OF THE YEAR
RECIPIENT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the La Crosse-based Trane Com-

pany's Applied Global Systems Group for being recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a recipient of the 1998 Energy Star Buildings Ally of the Year Award. This award is given to businesses that promote the use of energy-efficient products and contribute to air pollution prevention. The E.P.A.'s Energy Star Buildings Ally Program proves that business and government can not only coexist, but can actually achieve mutually beneficial goals, energy efficient cost-savings and lower emissions.

This award symbolizes a great success for Trane Company and demonstrates how far the company has come since the late 1980's and early 1990's when they faced a steadily declining sales and workforce reductions. It was feared this employer, a cornerstone of employment in the region, would leave the community.

Fortunately, a commitment was made by both management and the employees of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union Locals 21 and 1115 to cultivate a team concept and to foster a partnership for a friendly work environment that promotes pride, encourages a new level of trust and embraces new negotiation tactics in labor relations. Today, the employees and management view each other as allies rather than adversaries, and they work to achieve goals that are fair and productive to the employees and the company. That is part of the reason why the La Crosse Business Unit of Trane Co., responsible for the design, marketing and manufacture of centrifugal water chillers, absorption cold generators and scroll compressors for commercial air conditioning products, was named the 1996 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year.

Currently, Trane Company employs more than 3,000 employees in La Crosse. They offer industry leading products to an international market. The drive to succeed and dominate in the heating, ventilating, air conditioning and building management industries has enabled them to successfully identify the need for energy efficient and environmentally friendly products. The confidence Trane Co. has in their employees' ability to offer bold, new products to their customers ensures that the company will continue to dominate the market for years to come.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Trane Company and its employees on a well-deserved award and wish them continued success in what promises to be a bright and prosperous future as they enter the 21st Century.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST SERGEANT CHARLES PARKER UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents for his long and distinguished career in the Mississippi Army National Guard. First Sergeant Charles Parker of Calhoun City, Mississippi, is the full-time Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of Company B, 223rd Combat Engineer Battalion in Calhoun City. He is retiring

this spring after 33 years of honorable service to his state and nation.

His steady leadership and hard work earned First Sergeant Parker the respect of his peers and his subordinates throughout the Mississippi National Guard. He is credited with raising the strength level of his unit by more than 50 percent after it was reorganized. His technical, administrative, and leadership skills have been key factors in the company's consistently high performance ratings over the years. First Sergeant Parker has also led by example. In each of the last 14 Army physical fitness tests, he has scored more than 300 point maximum.

His commanding officer said there is no better soldier anywhere in the Mississippi National Guard, citing his positive attitude and willingness to go beyond the call of duty in support of his fellow Guardsmen and their mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in saluting First Sergeant Charles Parker for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF COMDR. DONNA M. LOONEY FOR HER APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMAND OF THE U.S.S. PLATT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to express my congratulations to CDR Donna Looney for her appointment to the command of the U.S.S. *Platt* by the United States Navy tomorrow evening.

CDR Looney, originally from Simsbury, Connecticut, recently graduated from the U.S. Naval War College, in Newport, RI, and is being honored with the command of a U.S. Navy fleet oiler, the U.S.S. *Platt*. As one of the few female pioneers to command a Naval ship, CDR Looney has set herself apart as a fine role model for young women as well as fellow Naval officers. For her leadership and tremendous achievements in the United States Navy, CDR Looney deserves our praise and recognition.

Today, I congratulate CDR Donna Looney for her appointment as commander of the U.S.S. *Platt* and I commend her for the hard work and sacrifices which were instrumental in attaining this meritorious position in the United States Navy.

IN HONOR OF SUNIL AGHI, AN ADVOCATE FOR THE INDO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an advocate of the Indo-American community, Mr. Sunil Aghi. Mr. Aghi is founder and President of the Indo-American Political Foundation, an organization dedicated to bringing Indo-Americans into the mainstream political process. Through this Foundation, Mr.

Aghi hopes to bring full equality and participation of minorities and other ethnic groups into the political process. Mr. Aghi has also worked hard to ensure that Indo-Americans are fully represented in political and elected offices. He understands that Indo-Americans should have their own voices in all levels of government to ensure that the needs of the Indo-American community are met by our elected officials.

Mr. Aghi looks forward to joining forces with other organizations which represent diverse ethnic groups to form coalitions that will give an even stronger voice to new citizens who are eager to learn more and become involved in American politics.

But the most important work that Mr. Aghi does, in his work as founder of Thank You America. Thank You America is an organization dedicated to providing food and clothing to the homeless of Orange County on Thanksgiving Day. Each year this group assists over 500 homeless individuals and families with warm meals and clothing during the holidays. Mr. Aghi is planning to expand Thank You America's services to help needy families year round.

Mr. Aghi truly understands the meaning of thanks. His tireless efforts are a model for all to follow. Mr. Aghi gives thanks everyday to America through his unselfish work, and I thank Mr. Aghi for his vital role in our communities.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN OF GREAT ESTEEM

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Women of Great Esteem, an organization that supports the advancement of women in a multi-cultural environment. This worthy group assists the homeless, works to combat violence in the community, provides educational training, and conducts AIDS outreach. Each year, Women of Great Esteem honors women who embody these goals of service to others. This week, seven women who have dedicated their lives to the community will be honored at the Second Annual Women of Great Esteem Awards.

The Honorable Una S. Clarke, Dr. Rosalind Jeffries, Dr. Karen McCarthy Brown, Rev. Barbara Pennant, Ms. Waveny Joseph, Ms. Alourdes C. Lovinski and Ms. Ivonne Mercado-Ford each deserve our sincerest thanks for their commitment to bettering the lives of women everywhere. They have challenged the community to recognize the appreciate diversity and affirm the gifts, talents and dignity of all women.

It is a great pleasure to congratulate these women for their achievement, and I too express my gratitude to Women of Great Esteem for their valuable service.

COMMENDING DR. PANAYOTIS IATRIDIS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to commend Dr. Panayotis Iatridis, a decorated physician who has devoted his life to the scholarly pursuit of medical education, on his 23rd anniversary as Assistant Dean and Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education at the Indiana University School of Medicine. In honor of his 23 years of outstanding service, the Advisory Council for the Northwest Center for Medical Education will host a recognition dinner on the evening of Saturday, March 28, 1998, at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana.

On July 1, 1975, Dr. Iatridis was named Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education, where he had served as Associate Professor and Director of the Physiology Course for medical students since 1972. During his 25 years with the Northwest Center, he has been integrally involved in every aspect of its operation, including the curriculum, administration, and service to students. As a member of the faculty, Dr. Iatridis organized and implemented a variety of courses, seminars, educational programs, and conferences for medical students, graduate students, post-doctoral trainees, faculty, and physicians in Northwest Indiana. Perhaps Dr. Iatridis' most noteworthy contribution to the Northwest Center's curriculum came in 1990, with his development and implementation of the "Regional Center Alternative Pathway", which is the educational program for first- and second-year medical students. Dr. Iatridis is also responsible for all administrative and academic affairs of the Northwest Center, and he has devoted much of his time to assisting medical students through different aspects of counseling and advising, including pre-medical student counseling and research project advising.

In addition to his dedicated work with the Indiana University School of Medicine, Dr. Iatridis has utilized his talents for the betterment of the Northwest Indiana community. Some of the organizations he has served include the City of Gary Economic Development Commission, the Gary Community School Corporation, the Lake and Porter County Medical Society Care of the Indigent Committee, and the Northwest Indiana Forum Foundation. Dr. Iatridis has also served as a board member of the Porter County Mental Health Association, Vice-Chairman of the Lake County Community Health Association, Chairman of the Lake County Medical Advisory Committee of the Community Health Association, the Program Committee of the Gary Rotary Club, and the Porter Starke Infection Control Committee.

Dr. Iatridis has received numerous prestigious awards, honors, and recognitions for his many professional and public service achievements. In recognition of his professional accomplishments, he received a Special Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Medical Education by the Asian-American Medical Society, in 1991; a commendation from the Asian-American Medical Society for Outstanding Contribution to Medical Education in Northwest Indiana, in 1997; and the Wisdom Award of Honor from the Wisdom Society